

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

JAN MARTIJN KRANS ET AL

NL 000578

Serial No.

Group Art Unit

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Ex.

Title: SEM PROVIDED WITH AN ADJUSTABLE FINAL ELECTRODE IN THE ELECTROSTATIC OBJECTIVE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

4. (amended) A particle-optical apparatus as claimed in claim 2, in which the final electrode (42) is symmetrically subdivided into a number of electrically isolated segments around the optical axis (4).

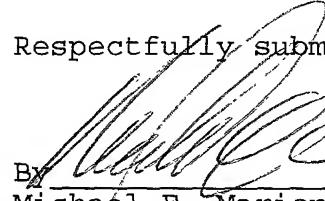
REMARKS

The foregoing amendments to claim 4 was made solely to avoid filing the claim in the multiple dependent form so as to avoid the additional filing fee.

The claim was not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights they

may have under the Doctrine of Equivalents. Applicants furthermore reserve their right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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## APPENDIX

4. (amended) A particle-optical apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3, in which the final electrode (42) is symmetrically subdivided into a number of electrically isolated segments around the optical axis (4).